



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,597	04/30/2001	Antoni P. Tomsia	IB-1627	3236

8076 7590 09/27/2006

LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY
ONE CYCLOTRON ROAD, MAIL STOP 90B
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY, CA 94720

EXAMINER

SPERTY, ARDEN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1771

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,597

Applicant(s)

TOMSIA ET AL.

Examiner

Arden B. Sperty

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,8-12,20-28 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,8-12,20-28,30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

FINAL OFFICE ACTION

1. Applicant's Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of revived application 09/845597 has been entered, and the arguments presented in the Appeal Brief 11/28/05 have been considered in response to the Final Office action, dated 2/24/04. There have been no amendments to the claims since the Final Office action dated 2/24/04, nor have any new arguments been presented. Therefore, the examiner's position remains as stated in the Final Office action dated 2/24/04.

Priority

2. Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 111(b)(1) as follows:

Section 35 USC 111(b)(1) states:

Such application shall include- (A) a specification as prescribed by the first paragraph of section 112 of this title.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Applicant's claim for priority to Provisional Application 60/201,556 is denied. The provisional application contains a collection of articles which are not seen to provide support for the claimed invention. It should be noted that the IDS designates three articles as Prior Art which are also included as part

of the "Provisional Application." Specifically, the specification of the provisional application does not meet the requirements of a "specification" according to 37 CFR 1.77 (b) and (c), which necessitates a certain format and subject matter for a specification. The present collection of previously published articles, including ones not even written by the inventors, does not comply with 37 CFR 1.77 (b) and (c). Therefore, priority to said provisional application is denied.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the article titled "HA-bioactive glass composites: High temperature reactivity and 'in-vitro' behavior" by Pazo, et al.

Regarding claim 1, the reference teaches a multilayered article (see text of page 1733 and Figures 6 and 7) comprising a Ti or Ti alloy substrate (see line 6 of abstract) and a first layer comprising a glass of the claimed composition (see page 1729, first paragraph under "Materials and Methods), further comprising HA in an amount of 25% (up to 50%) (page 1729, last paragraph).

Regarding claim 8, the substrate is Ti or Ti alloy (abstract line 6).

Regarding claim 23, the reference teaches the amount of SiO₂ within the claimed range (page 1729, first paragraph under "Materials and Methods").

5. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-12, and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Glass-hydroxyapatite coatings on titanium-based implants" by Gomez-Vega et al, published February 2000.

Regarding claim 1, the reference teaches a multilayer article (see bottom of page 16) comprising a metal substrate (see abstract), and a first layer comprising the claimed glass composition (Table I, samples 6P55, 6P57, 6P61) and an amount of HA within the claimed range (bottom of page 16).

Regarding claim 3, the reference teaches the article of claim 1 having multiple layers (intermediate layers) (page 19, lines 1-8) comprising a glass composition as defined in claim 1 (see Table I).

Regarding claim 5, the reference teaches the article of claim 3 having a first intermediate layer having a HA concentration of 0%, a second intermediate layer having a HA concentration of 20%, and a first layer having a HA concentration of 40% (page 19, lines 1-8).

Regarding claim 8, the reference teaches the article of claim 1 wherein the substrate is Ti-6Al-4V (see abstract).

Art Unit: 1771

Regarding claims 9-12, the reference teaches the claimed glass compositions on a substrate of Ti-6Al-4V and HA concentrations meeting the claim limitations (Table I and bottom of page 16).

Regarding claim 20, the reference discloses a multilayer article comprising a Ti6Al4V substrate (see abstract) having a first layer and 2 intermediate layers, the layers comprising the claimed glass composition (see Table I) and an amount of HA within the claimed range (bottom of page 16).

Regarding claims 21 and 23, Table I shows the SiO₂ content of samples 6P55 and 6P57 to be within the claimed range.

Regarding claims 22 and 24, the bottom of page 16 teaches n=2.

Regarding claims 25 and 27, Table I shows the SiO₂ content of sample 6P61 to be within the claimed range.

Regarding claims 26 and 28, the bottom of page 16 teaches n=2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 1771

7. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Glass-hydroxyapatite coatings on titanium-based implants" by Gomez-Vega et al, published February 2000 as applied above, and further in view of "A multilayer approach to fabricate bioactive glass coatings on Ti alloys," by Gomez-Vega et al, published 1999.

While the 2000 Gomez-Vega reference discloses a multilayer article as presently claimed wherein $n=2$ (having a second intermediate layer between the first intermediate layer and the substrate), the reference is silent with respect to a SiO_2 gradient wherein the highest SiO_2 concentration is closest to the substrate. The reference further states that a desired quality in the multilayer article is good adhesion of the coatings to metal (Introduction, the paragraph that spans the bottom of page 15 to the top of page 16). The 1999 Gomez-Vega reference teaches a multilayer article having a metal substrate, glass layers having the claimed composition, and an outer layer having HA particles embedded therein, further having an SiO_2 gradient wherein the highest SiO_2 concentration is closest to the substrate to achieve excellent adhesion to the metal substrate. Therefore, since excellent adhesion to the substrate is a desirable quality in the multilayer article of the 2000 Gomez-Vega reference, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the multilayer article having an HA gradient according to the 2000 Gomez-Vega reference with the 1999 Gomez-Vega reference to achieve excellent adhesion to the metal substrate.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's repeated insistence that the examiner point to the deficiencies in the provisional application is without merit. The rejections presented above are complete.

9. Applicant argues that the provisional application does provide support for the claim for priority and that the instant claims comply with 35 USC 112 first paragraph. Applicant has pointed to several passages in an effort to show support for isolated elements of the present claims. Those passages are from different unconnected documents. See discussion of specification requirement according to 37 CFR 1.77 noted above.

10. The documents in the provisional application have been carefully reviewed. Present claim 1 requires a metallic article comprising a metal substrate and a layer having an inner and outer surface and comprising a specific glass composition and up to 50 wt% HA particles. It is the position of the examiner that "up to" includes zero so the HA particles are optional. A reading of the present specification indicates this position is accurate. The documents alone or in combination are not seen to teach this combination.

11. Applicant's argument against the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 8 and 23 over "HA-bioactive glass composites" is not persuasive. Applicant's argument is that Pazo does not teach a multilayer article on the Ti-substrate, however the reference teaches the layering of the claimed glass composition on a metal alloy.

Art Unit: 1771

12. Applicant argues that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the 35 USC 102(b) rejection over "Silicate Glass coatings on Ti-based implants." This is not so. The claim still requires that the HA particles are present in an amount "up to 50 wt%," a range which includes 0%.

13. Regarding the publication date of the "Glass-Hydroxyapatite coating on titanium-based implants" article, the letter from The American Ceramic Society has been considered and the rejection still stands based on the Society's disclosure of publication in February 2000.

14. Applicant's arguments regarding the 35 USC 103 rejection of claim 30 has been considered, however in view of the above remarks, that rejection is also seen to be valid and is herein maintained.

Conclusion

15. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 1771

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris, who can be reached at (571)272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Arden B. Sperty
Examiner
Art Unit 1771

September 19, 2006



CHERYL A. JUSKA
PRIMARY EXAMINER